

Minutes

March 4, 2015

N. C. Board of Agriculture

Casey M. Armstrong	Kirk Mathis
Maurice K. Berry, Jr.	Mark Peters
Doug Boyd	Bert Pitt
Tommy Burleson	Robert Sutter
John William Carter, III	Jeffrey Turner
William Johnston	

Steve Troxler, Chairman

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Call to Order

Referendum Request – NC Blueberry Council, Inc.

Request for Rulemaking

- 1) 02 NCAC 48C .0113 Recording Flue-Cured Varieties
- 2) 02 NCAC 48C .0115 Recording Blends
- 3) 02 NCAC 52C .0701 Intrastate Requirements
- 4) 02 NCAC 20B .0104 Admission Rules

Adjourn

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N.C. Board of Agriculture

The Board of Agriculture held a conference call on March 4, 2015. Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Troxler called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. and read the Ethics Reminder. The following Board members participated via conference call: Casey Armstrong, Maurice Berry, Doug Boyd, Billy Carter, Billy Johnston, Kirk Mathis, and Jeff Turner. Others on the call included Wesley Wyatt, State Fair; Julie Woodcock, N.C. Blueberry Council; and Anne Brown, NC DOJ.



Commissioner Troxler explained that the purpose of the call was to consider a referendum request by the N.C. Blueberry Council. Tina Hlabse, the Department's General Counsel explained their request. The referendum would be for crop years 2015 through 2020 and would be a vote to increase the assessment rate by 50% to 5.4 cents per 9 pounds of fresh blueberries and 2.7 cents per 9 pounds on process sales. The assessment allows for the promotion of research, education, and general welfare of blueberries. Julie Woodcock, Executive Director of the N.C. Blueberry Council was on the phone in case there were questions.

With no questions on the presented request, Kirk Mathis made the MOTION to accept the referendum. The motion, seconded by Jeff Turner, carried by unanimous vote.



The second item on the agenda for the call were several requests to initiate the rulemaking process. The rules would come back before the Board for final adoption after all other steps in the Administrative Procedure Act are followed.

Tina Hlabse, General Counsel, explained that 02 NCAC 48C .0113 would be amended to strike language that would allow an appeal to the Board of Crop Seed Improvement.

Billy Johnston made the MOTION, which was seconded by Kirk Mathis, to start the rulemaking process on this rule. With no further questions or discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Similarly, Ms. Hlabse explained that 02 NCAC 48C .0115 would be amended to strike language referencing an appeal to the Board of Crop Seed Improvement.

The MOTION was made by Doug Boyd, and seconded by Jeff Turner, to allow the Department to start the rulemaking process. After no further questions or discussion, the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Dr. Doug Meckes, State Veterinarian, discussed the change to 02 NCAC 52C .0701. This slight amendment would put our requirements in line with USDA guidelines.

Billy Johnston MOVED to begin the process of rulemaking for the presented rule. The motion, seconded by Casey Armstrong, was passed unanimously after it was clarified that the rule just regulates captive cervids.

Lastly, Wesley Wyatt explained that the Department would like to start the rulemaking process in order to increase admission prices for the State Fair. The fee increase includes the tax that has to be collected because of the bill passed last year by the General Assembly.

Kirk Mathis made the MOTION, which was seconded by Jeff Turner, to start the rulemaking process. There was clarification that the Mountain State Fair would have to collect the tax as well, but those rates would come before them at a different time. With no further questions, the motion carried by unanimous vote.

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There was no further business to discuss. A MOTION was made by Jeff Turner to adjourn. The motion, seconded by Billy Carter, passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:13 p.m.

Recorded and Prepared by:  
Christina L. Waggett

Adopted by the Board this 22<sup>nd</sup> day  
of April, 2015.



Steven W. Troxler  
Commissioner of Agriculture  
Chairman



Tina Hlabse  
Secretary